8223. e. 30.

To the Knights, Citizens, Burgeſſes, and Commiſſioners, in *Parliament* Aſſembled,

The Humble

PETITION

OF

Thomas Brooke and *John Hellier*, of *London*,

MERCHANTS,

Humbly Sheweth,

THAT whereas your Petitioners have Imported large Quantities of *Portugal* Wines, as well in the Port of *London*, as in ſeveral other Parts of *England*, which Wines have not only been Imported, but alſo Sold by your Petitioners as Merchants, and by Wholeſale, and no otherwiſe; and for which, as they humbly ſuggeſt, they are chargeable with no other Duties than as Merchants, and Wholeſale Men: Yet that your Petitioners having, as an Accident to their Trade as Merchants, and to prevent the late Combinations of the Vintners, and the great Abuſes of the Wine Trade, been obliged to Sell ſome of their Wines by Retale in ſeveral Parts of this City, they have been therefore obliged by the Officers of the Cuſtoms to pay as Retalers for all the other Wines which they have Imported ſince that Time, as above; although Sold as Merchants, and by Wholeſale; and particularly in ſuch Ports where they have never offered to Retale any Wines at all; to the great Oppreſſion, Hindrance, and Ruin of the Trade of your Petitioners, who are thereby ſet on a different and unequal Foot of Trade from other Merchants, whereby their whole Buſineſs will be in Danger of being unavoidably loſt.

Your Petitioners therefore moſt humbly pray, That Leave may be given to bring in a Clauſe to Empower the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms to receive and allow of Proof upon Oath from your Petitioners; thereby to diſtinguiſh ſuch Wines as they ſhall Import for Wholeſale, as Merchants, from thoſe Imported for Sale by Retale; and to make Allowances of the Duties accordingly, as the Law requires; or otherwiſe to relieve your Petitioners, as well for their Loſs already ſuſtain'd, as aforeſaid; as in their future Trade; in ſuch Manner as to your HONOURS in your great Wiſdom ſhall ſeem meet.

And Your Petitioners ſhall ever pray, &c.

The Humble

PETITION

OF

Thomas Brooke and *John Hellier*,

of *London*,

MERCHANTS.